

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 7, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 26, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 15, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 10, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 2, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2227

Introduced by Assembly Member Chu
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chan, Jones, and Pavley)

February 22, 2006

~~An act to amend Section 68565 of the Government Code, relating to courts.~~ *An act to add Section 68565.5 to the Government Code, relating to courts.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2227, as amended, Chu. ~~Court interpreters.~~ *Courts: advisory panel on language access.*

Existing law provides for the regulation of court interpreters. Existing law authorizes the Judicial Council to establish a court interpreters advisory panel to assist the council in performing its duties related to court interpreter services. Existing law specifies that the panel shall include a majority of court interpreters and may include judges and court administrators, members of the bar, and others interested in interpreter services in the courts. Under existing

law, the panel is required to develop operating guidelines and procedures for Judicial Council approval.

~~This bill would require the Judicial Council to establish a court interpreters advisory panel to assist the council in performing its duties.~~

~~The bill would, specify the composition of the panel, its duties, and the compensation for panel members.~~

This bill would require the Judicial Council to establish an advisory panel to assist the Judicial Council in promulgating and implementing standards and policies for the trial courts to ensure meaningful language access in the trial courts. The bill would require the advisory panel to consist of 15 members, with a majority of the panel members court interpreters, to be appointed by the Chairperson of the Senate Rules Committee, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the Chairperson of the Judicial Council.

This bill would also permit a panel member to receive specified necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of his or her duties. The bill would provide that the panel shall receive staff support from the Office of the Administrative Courts. The bill would require travel and other incidental costs for the panel to be funded through the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The bill would also require the panel, on or before July 1, 2008, to report to the Legislature and the Judicial Council on the existing certification system and recommend changes to ensure competence, improve fairness and transparency in the certification process, and ensure access to the profession by competent and qualified candidates.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 68565.5 is added to the Government
- 2 Code, to read:
- 3 68565.5. (a) The Judicial Council shall establish the Blue
- 4 Ribbon Panel on Language Access in the courts. A majority of
- 5 the panel shall be court interpreters. The panel shall consist of
- 6 the following members:
- 7 (1) Three certified court interpreters employed by the trial
- 8 courts shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Senate Rules
- 9 Committee.

1 (2) *Two certified court interpreters employed by the trial*
2 *courts shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.*

3 (3) *One certified court interpreter working in the trial courts*
4 *as an independent contractor shall be appointed by the Speaker*
5 *of the Assembly.*

6 (4) *One representative of the employee organization*
7 *representing the largest number of court interpreters shall be*
8 *appointed by that employee organization.*

9 (5) *Two members with expertise in education and training in*
10 *the area of language interpretation shall be appointed by the*
11 *Judicial Council.*

12 (6) *Six members shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the*
13 *Judicial Council, who shall select one of those members to serve*
14 *as chairperson of the panel.*

15 (b) *The members of the panel shall not receive compensation*
16 *for their services, but shall be allowed necessary expenses for*
17 *travel, board, and lodging incurred in the discharge of their*
18 *duties. Employees of the trial courts shall be allowed release*
19 *with pay from their employment to attend panel meetings.*

20 (c) *The panel shall receive staff support from the*
21 *Administrative Office of the Courts. Travel and other incidental*
22 *costs for the panel shall be funded through the Administrative*
23 *Office of the Courts.*

24 (d) *The initial terms of office for members of the panel and*
25 *subsequent terms of office shall be established by the Rules of*
26 *Court.*

27 (e) *The panel shall meet at least two times per year.*

28 (f) *The Judicial Council shall request recommendations from*
29 *the panel, and after receiving those recommendations, shall*
30 *promulgate and implement rules, standards and policies for the*
31 *trial courts in order to ensure meaningful language access in the*
32 *trial courts with appropriate court interpreter recruitment,*
33 *training, and staffing levels. The panel shall provide*
34 *recommendations to the Judicial Council and the Legislature on*
35 *all of the following:*

36 (1) *With regard to the certification and testing of court*
37 *interpreters, the panel shall advise regarding matters related to*
38 *testing standards, testing agencies, and designation of languages*
39 *requiring certification including, but not limited to, all of the*
40 *following:*

- 1 (A) *The validity of testing tools.*
2 (B) *Qualifications of test developers.*
3 (C) *Qualifications of exam raters.*
4 (D) *Examiner training and standardization of rating*
5 *techniques.*
6 (E) *Examiner conflict of interest.*
7 (F) *Changes in certification standards.*
8 (2) *The panel shall also consider alternative models for*
9 *interpreter certification and interpreter licensing systems.*
10 (3) *The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide the*
11 *panel with information regarding the current testing instruments,*
12 *test developers, exam graders and practices, and proposed*
13 *changes to certification standards and testing practices.*
14 (g) *On or before January 1, 2008, the panel shall report to the*
15 *Legislature and the Judicial Council on the existing certification*
16 *system and recommend changes to ensure competence, improve*
17 *fairness and transparency in the certification process, and ensure*
18 *access to the profession by competent and qualified candidates.*

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21 **All matter omitted in this version of the bill**
22 **appears in the bill as amended in the**
23 **Senate, June 26, 2006 (JR11)**
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